Sl. No.	Details of the concession/exemption
k.	Concessional rate of duty of 15% on specified items required by spinal patients and other categories of physically handicapped people.
l.	Exemption from payment of duty on Braille printer or Braille embosser or Braille display designed for computer systems.
m.	Concessional rate of duty of 15% on Closed Circuit Television System used as Low Vision Aid for visually handicapped persons.
n.	Exemption to audio cassettes, if recorded with material from books, newspapers, or magazines for the blind.
o.	Concessional rate of duty of 15% on tricycles for use by crippled and disabled persons.
p.	Concessional rate of duty of 15% on hearing aids appliances and spare parts of hearing aids.
q.	Concessional rate of duty of 5% on parts (other than primary cells and primary batteries) for the manufacture of hearing aids.
r.	Full exemption from payment of duty on specified goods imported by handicapped or disabled person for his personal use.
s.	Full exemption from payment of duty on Braille watches and Braille one day alarm clocks and parts and cases of Braille watches for the manufacture of Braille watches.
t.	Concessional duty of 25% on orthopaedic appliances falling under heading No. 90.21 imported by post or air, for personal use.

Social Security Net for Aged

2551 SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Council for Economic and Social Research has suggested that the issue of providing the social security net for the aged with involvement of the informal sector should be put on top priority by Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that except for the destitutes, the rest of the population should be linked to some contributing pension-cum-health-cum-shelter fund; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) It is understood that a two day workshop was organized by Help age India, a Non-Governmental Organization, on 3rd and 4th February, 2000 at New Delhi. In this workshop, Council for Economic and Social Research (CESR) presented a paper titled 'An approach to a security net for the Aged'. The recommendations of the workshop and the paper presented there were not sent to this Ministry.

(b) and (c) The population of Older Persons in India which was 56.7 million in 1991 is expected to grow to over 76 million in the year 2001 and 137 million by 2021. The proportion of the population aged 60 years and above was 5.1% of the total population in 1901, this rose to 5.4% in 1951 and is projected to be 7.7% by the year 2001. The trend clearly reveals that Ageing will become a major social challenge in the future and vast resources will be required towards the support, care and treatment of older persons. Having realized this, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment had commissioned, in August, 1998, a project OASIS (and acronym for Old Age Social and Income Security) and nominated an eight member Expert Committee, headed by Dr. S.A. Dave, former Chairman, Unit Trust of India, to comprehensively examine policy questions connected with old age income security in India. The Committee in its Report, submitted to the Government in January, 2000, has recommended a voluntary pension system whereby every young worker may build up enough savings during his/her working life which could serve as a shield against poverty during old age. Government has not yet taken a final view on these recommendations.

Granting Rights and Privileges Under Disablities Act, 1995

2552. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to grant certain rights and privileges to persons falling under the purview of Disabilities Act, 1995;